

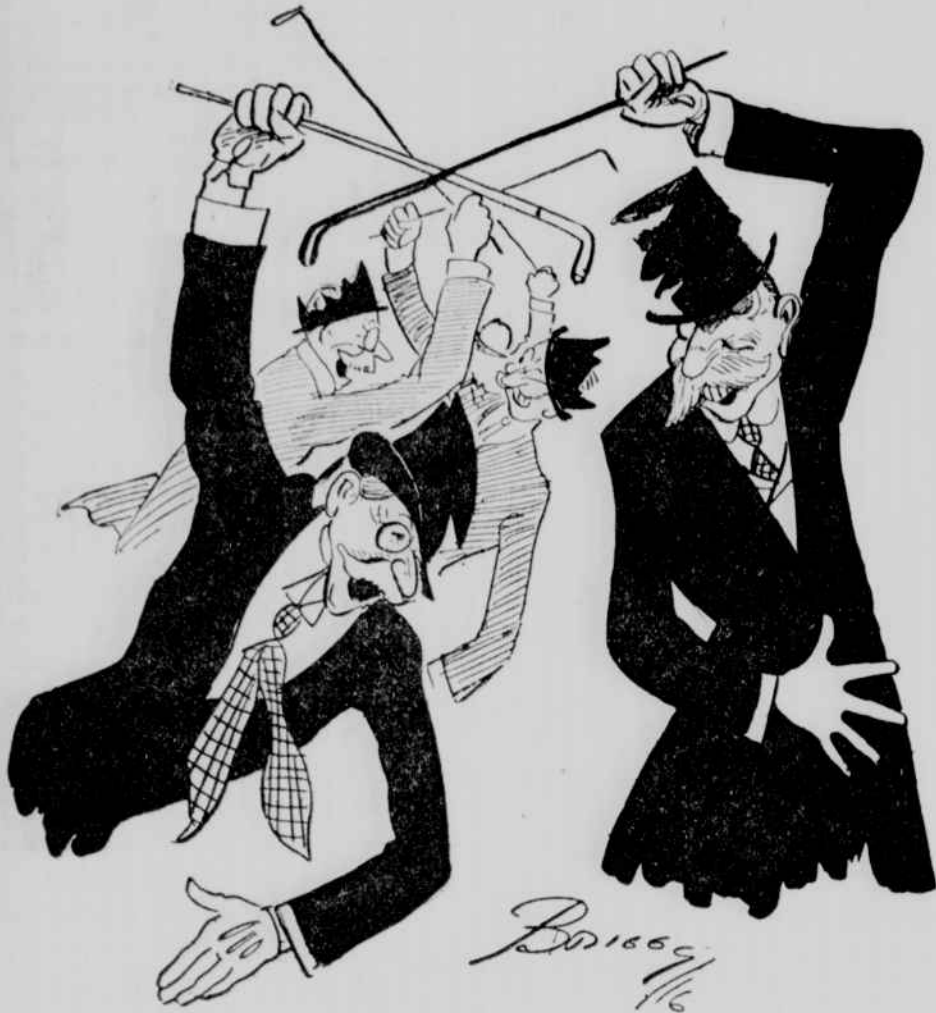
A VICTORY EXPERT IS NEEDED THESE DAYS

After Berlin Has Hung Out Flags and Given the Children a Holiday, It Is Terribly Confusing to Learn That in London Every Member of the Stock Exchange Has Smashed Another Member's Hat

By MONTAGUE GLASS

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Illustrations by Briggs



"Every member of the stock exchange smashed another member's hat."

"THERE is one thing which a modern navy needs it, Birsky, and this here sea battle proves that they should positively ought to have it," said Barnett Zapp, the waist manufacturer, to Louis Birsky, the real estate, as they sat in Wasserbauer's Cafe, "and that's an Official Scorer."

"Also a Referee," Louis Birsky said, "which after Berlin has hung out flags and given the school children a holiday, y'understand, because Germany won, Zapp, it must be terribly confusing for the people to learn that in London every member of the stock exchange smashed another member's hat and services was held in the churches all over England on account of the big English victory."

"What is a few flags more or less in Berlin, Birsky?" Zapp asked. "And as for giving the school children a holiday, Birsky, every time Germany fights a battle, y'understand, she claims a victory and gives the school children a holiday; then she goes to work and docks the teachers, the janitors and scrub women one day's pay, averaging thirty-eight cents apiece, Birsky, but as Germany has got the largest educational system in the world, y'understand, the total amount saved is quite an item."

"If she gains many more victories," Birsky commented, "in twenty years from now the people of Germany wouldn't be able to read or write."

"Even to-day yet they ain't good figurers exactly," Zapp said, "and that's why they need it an Official Scorer."

"Both sides need one," Birsky said. "The English is quite as bad as the Germans that way, Zapp. If the Germans admit that the battleship Seidlitz and the cruiser Wiesbaden was sunk, Zapp, the English go to work and say they also sunk the Kissingen, Wildungen, Karlsbad and Nauheim."

"The feller that named them German warships must of one time had kidney trouble," Zapp said. "After the Marienbad, Hombourg and Baden-Baden gets sunk, he'll have to go outside of his own country and Austria for names, and at that he ain't got a very wide selection. All he can get from us is Saratoga, French Lick and Hot Springs, Arkansas, and we're practically through."

"Well, it's a whole lot better as calling battleships Invincible, Unsinkable and all them names," Birsky said. "It's like calling a boy Abraham L., George W., Theodore R., or Grover C. The most you could expect from such a young feller is that after they let him out of the reformatory he would become a bar tender."

"Anyhow the English has got a bigger scope," Zapp said. "There's enough Ins, Ums and Ims to last 'em with names

for the rest of the war,—names that according to you would bring luck, like H. M. Battleships Unmanageable and Indigestible down to the destroyers Impossible and Improbable."

"Aber you've got to admit that the English need a little luck, ain't it?" Birsky said.

"They need a little something,—I don't know what it is," Zapp said. "All that them English admirals and generals has been doing since the war started is regretting to report. At least one or two of 'em is about due to be glad to inform. At the same time, Birsky, in my judgment none of them countries up to date has got away with a clean enough victory to hang out so much as a red flannel undershirt over."

"But you also got to admit that the Germans made a big victory of it there in the North Sea, Zapp," Birsky said.

"Well," Zapp said, "the way victories is worked nowadays, Birsky, a man has got to be a victory expert to tell one when he sees it, but as I understand the matter, when the Kaiser got the news over the phone, Birsky, he wasn't so tickled over it neither."

"I couldn't hear a word you say," he said, because the voice at the other end of the wire seemed indistinct as of some one speaking through hair.

"Listen, Boss," the voice says, "it's me, von Tirpitz. Could you come over for a little while?"

"What's the matter now?" the Kaiser says.

"Well, I don't like to tell you over the phone," von Tirpitz says, and the Kaiser puts on his hat and coat.

"Es fehlt nur noch," he says to his wife. "He ain't satisfied that he gets me into trouble with Wilson, Mommer, the Schlemiel has got to win a naval victory yet."

"Wouldn't you be back for lunch?" she asks.

"How could I get back from Wilhelmshaven for lunch?" the Kaiser says.

"And I was going to have some real tripe," she says, breaking into tears. "The first meat we've had since Shevuos."

"There, there, it can't be helped," the Kaiser says, jumping into his machine, and when he gets out at Wilhelmshaven a little crowd is standing round a feller in an admiral's uniform, who is laying exhausted in a chair.

"Don't gather round him like that," the Kaiser says. "Give him air."

"I did give him air," von Tirpitz says. "I fanned him and I fanned him."

"Did you try mathematic spirits of ammonia?" the Kaiser asks.

"Listen!" von Tirpitz says to the crowd. "Did I try mathematic spirits

of ammonia! He's full from ammonia like an artificial ice plant."

"So the Kaiser leans over the admiral and shakes him by the shoulder."

"Now quit that trembling and tell us about the victory," he says, and after a while the admiral pulls himself together.

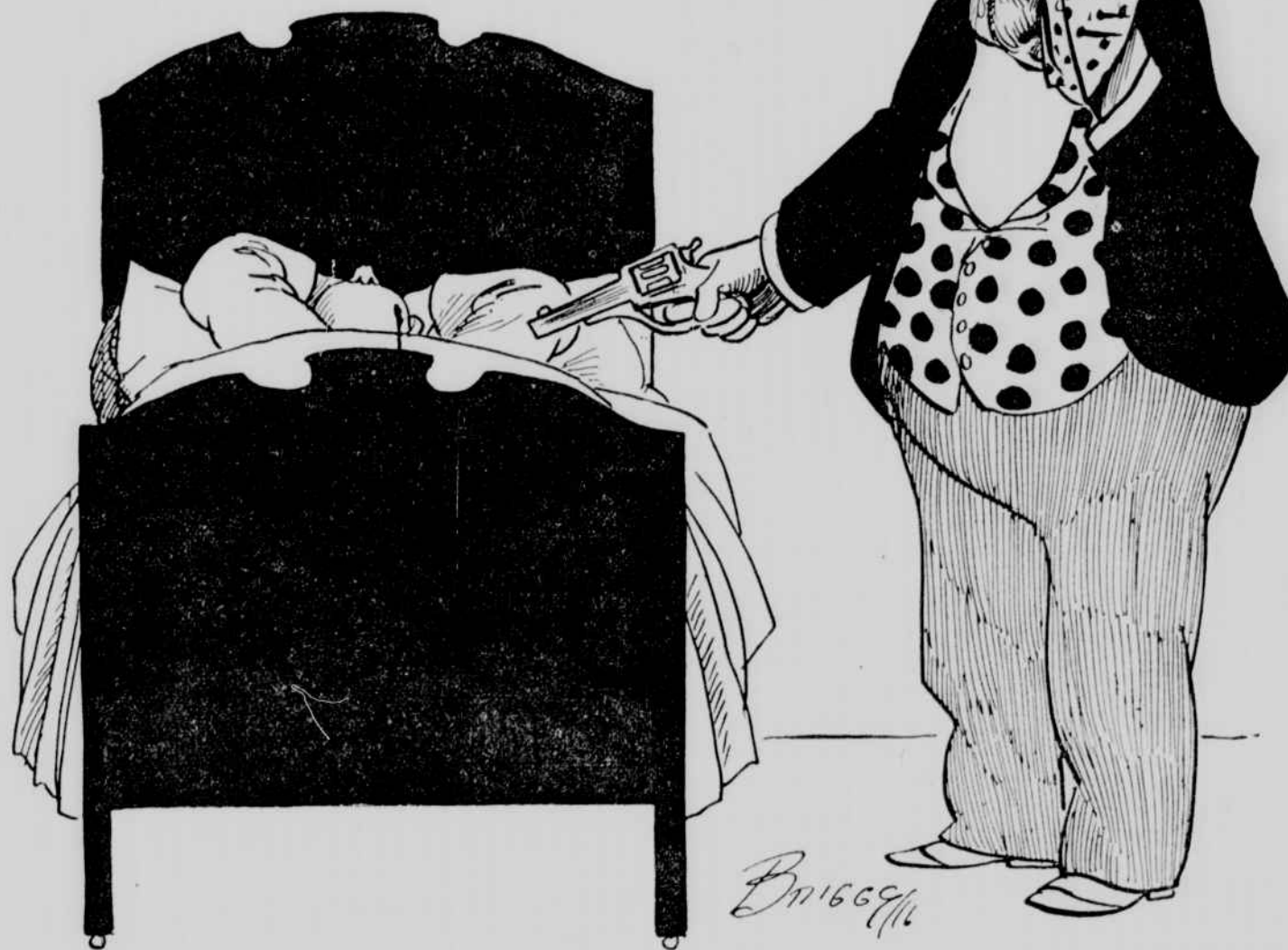
"We won," he says. "We won by twenty miles."

"And the Kaiser says: 'Well,' he says, 'give the school children a holiday and tell von Reventlow to announce that we sunk six English battleships of the Im class, two battleships of the Um class and one super-dreadnought of the In class.'"

"And how many cruisers, torpedo boats and destroyers should he say we sunk?" von Tirpitz asks.

"Let him use his own discretion," the Kaiser says, and so soon as von Reventlow hears that he has a free hand, he goes to work and sinks the Shark, the Haddock, the Bluefish, the Maatjes Herring, the Appetitsild and ten other cruisers of the Fish class, and from 21-A to 41-A of torpedo boats in the Party Wire class."

"You are judging this here sea fight



"He would think that murdering a friend under the circumstances was the right thing to do, even if his heart was breaking."

from what the English is giving out," Birsky commented.

"Oser a Stück," Zapp declared. "I am judging it according to the Law of Probabilities, which means that if two parties tell different stories about the same Geschichte, Birsky, the chances is a hundred to one that they are both lying. I don't believe that the English sunk all them ships of the Mineral Water class any more as I believe Germany's fish story about all the English cruisers she got away with, aber when I read it in the Yorkville Freie Presse and the Brooklyn Morgenblatt what

a dummer Esel the English admiral was because during the first part of the battle when he found himself fighting one to three against the Germans he didn't geschwindt beat it away, y'understand, and what a smart feller the German admiral was because in the second part of the battle when more English boats come along, he turned and run for his life back to Wilhelmshaven, understand me, then all I got to say is, Birsky, that in order to approve of everybody hanging out flags for such a victory you've got to be in the flag and bunting business selling principally to the German trade."

"Aber what did you expect the German admiral to do?" Birsky asked. "Stay there and let the English give him Makkas?"

"Did I say I expected such a thing of a German admiral?" Zapp demanded. "From an English admiral oder an American admiral yes; aber a German

Auction Pinochle, three handed. A B and C are playing ten cents a hundred, spades double. At half past nine, A is ahead ten dollars, B and C losing five dollars apiece. A wants to quit, thereby busting up the game. Can he?

Answer: Why not?

Poker, six handed: A is banker and having sold for twenty-five dollars checks, he excuses himself to get a drink of water. Six months later, one of the players meeting him in Chicago wants to break his neck or something. A therefore offers to compromise and in the mean time to hold the money as a basis for negotiation. What do you advise?

Answer: It is sometimes done.

Poker, seven handed: A is dealing. He slips himself an ace off the bottom of the deck and makes three aces thereby taking the pot. (a) What is the penalty and (b) what becomes of the pot?

Answer: (a) The players con-



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he was acting according to his own ideas, Birsky, and not following the rules laid down for him by the German Government. I ain't claiming that a German admiral ain't such a good feller like an English admiral oder a French admiral. The chances is the captain of the submarine which sunk the Lusitania when left to himself and not working according to government instructions is very fond of children and wouldn't dream of sitting down in a subway train when ladies is standing. Why, some of my best friends is Germans, Birsky, and they are welcome in my house like they would be my own brothers up to the time they go to work for the German government, and then I am through with 'em, because if the German government thought it was necessary for the success of the war to murder me in my bed, y'understand, they would pick out to do it a German friend of mine as being the most likely to catch me unawares. Furthermore my German friend, being a German, would not hesitate for a moment. If his government told him to do it, he would not only do it, but he would think that murdering a friend under the circumstances was the right thing to do, even if his heart was breaking."

"A feller could get himself very unpopular that way," Birsky commented. "German or otherwise."

"I give you right, Birsky," Zapp agreed, "but the trouble with the Germans is that they couldn't see it at all, and if the murdered man's relations puts up a roar, which certainly you couldn't blame 'em, then the Yorkville Freie Presse and the Brooklyn Morgenblatt says their relations was prejudiced against the German cause. Also that they were bribed by England to complain about it, and that they can call it murder if they want to, but Germany had the first Workmen's Compensation Act and Old Age Insurance, and just look at Tammany Hall."

"Well, Tammany Hall ain't nothing to be proud of neither," Birsky said.

"Sure I know," Zapp replied, "except that Tammany Hall is systematized in A number one style, Birsky. From the boss down, they're all working together for the Organization, and whatever their Kaiser—I mean their boss—directs the rank and file to do in the way of dirty work, Birsky, they do it like good Germans—I mean good Tammanyites. It's funny that I should get the members of Tammany Hall mixed up that way with subjects of the German Empire, because after all, they're very different in a number of ways. For instance a member of Tammany Hall never beefs about how unpopular he is."

"And what are the other differences?" Birsky inquired.

"I couldn't think of 'em offhand," Zapp said.

graduate him in turn beginning to the left of the dealer. (b) He keeps it."

"The trouble with you is you are prejudiced, Zapp," Birsky said. "The Germans is good sports the same like anybody else. Look at this here German lieutenant which, after he lost his ship and his food, he brought his men home from the other side of the world, Zapp, like it would be a miracle already. Did the English done something like this? I ask you? The feller was a hero."

"Sure he was," Zapp replied, "aber